

## **OLDER ADULTS SYSTEM OF CARE'S JAMES CUNNINGHAM RETIRES**

**By Kimberli Washington, Public Information Office**



The Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Older Adult System of Care (OASOC) Bureau held a retirement celebration for Dr. James Cunningham on Tuesday, July 1, 2014. Nearly 40 staff members attended the luncheon held at the Monterey Hills Restaurant Carmel Ballroom in Monterey Park. Dr. Cunningham is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service with LACDMH.

Dr. Cunningham began with LACDMH in 1994 as a Clinical Psychologist II with the Santa Clarita Mental Health Center. He moved to the Training Division in 1999 and was responsible for processing stipends for student interns and collaborating with schools for student placement as part of the Psychology for Continuing Education Committee, helping create the Student Professional Development Program.



In June, 2008, Dr. Cunningham moved to the OASOC Bureau, first as Senior Community Mental Health Psychologist, then as Program Head in 2009, overseeing OASOC MHSA Program Administration. He also helped start the Anti-Stigma and Discrimination Team and Partners in Suicide Prevention (PSP) Network for OASOC Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) projects.

Dr. Cunningham is actively involved in the field of professional education and serves as a member of the CPA Continuing Education Committee. He has also had a long term interest in suicide prevention and has co-chaired the County of Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network, successfully helping to plan and conduct four annual Suicide Prevention Summits, including the upcoming conference in September, 2014.



Dr. Cunningham, along with LACDMH employee Jae Kim, received the American Psychiatric Foundation Award for Advancing Minority Mental Health for 2014 in New York City, on behalf of the Partners in Suicide Prevention (PSP) program.

A special photo-video presentation of Dr. Cunningham was made by Jae Kim and was shown at the luncheon of various events throughout his career with LACDMH.

Colleagues and staff shared their favorite moments with Dr. Cunningham and special gift presentations were given by Carol Sagusti, L.C.S.W., and Kevin Tsang, L.C.S.W., M.B.A.

“Thank you for this day, thank you for the memories. This was more than expected, a wonderful culmination of 20 years in the department,” said Dr. James Cunningham.



The event concluded with group photos taken with the various offices and groups Dr. Cunningham has worked with throughout his 20 years.

